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SEP 1 7 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Application of

Pearce, Richard A.

Group Art Unit: 3745

Serial No. 10/617,000

Examiner: Verdier, C.

Filed: July 9, 2003

For: QUICK CONNECT BLADE SYSTEM)

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312

Honorable Commissioner of Patents POB 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE mailed July 21, 2004, please amend the subject application as follows: